NEWS RELEASE
PLEASE NOTE DATE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25 D C

HOLD FOR RELEASE
UNTIL LAUNCH

NO 929-61
OXford 75131

FACT SHEET
SAMOS III

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project SAMOS is a research and development program to determine the capabilities for making observations of space, the atmosphere and the globe from satellites. The program is under the executive management of the Secretary of the Air Force.

TEST OBJECTIVE

SAMOS III was launched from a USAF launch pad at the Naval Missile Facility, Point Arguello, California, over the Pacific Missile Range to place the vehicle in a near circular, polar orbit. A major objective of the test will be to further determine the reliability of the ATLAS/AGENA B combination.

Another purpose of the flight is continued component testing to establish the feasibility of obtaining an observation capability from an orbiting satellite.

CONFIGURATION

SAMOS III employs the AGENA B as its second stage. It is boosted out of the atmosphere by a modified Air Force ATLAS and placed into orbit by the AGENA.

First Stage

Height	Approximately 80 feet (with adapter section).
Launch Weight.	Approximately 262,000 pounds.
Thrust	Approximately 368,000 pounds (includes two booster engines which produce 154,500 pounds thrust each and are jettisoned after about two minutes of flight; the sustainer engine, rated at approximately 57,000 pounds; and two small vernier engines at 1,000 pounds of thrust each).

MORE

Orbital Stage

Height . . . . . Approximately 25 feet (about 3 feet of the aft section fit inside the ATLAS adapter ring, making the total mated vehicle height 102 feet).

Weight . . . . . Approximately 18,000 pounds at launch. Orbital weight after fuel exhaustion will be approximately 4200 pounds.

Thrust . . . . . Approximately 15,000 pounds.

Instrument Package. Test photographic and related equipment.

TRACKING, TELEMETRY AND COMMAND

a. Primary tracking, telemetry and command during orbit will be performed by:

Vandenberg Tracking Station, Vandenberg AFB, California
Hawaiian Tracking Station, Kaena, Oahu, Hawaii
Kodiak Tracking Station, Kodiak, Alaska
New Boston Tracking Station, New Boston, New Hampshire

b. Ascent guidance (booster)

GE Mod II, Vandenberg AFB, California

c. Ascent tracking and telemetry

Vandenberg Tracking Station, Vandenberg AFB, California

d. Downrange Telemetry and Tracking Ship

To be announced

e. Ascent Radar and/or Optical Tracking (PMR)

Point Arguello, California
Point Mugu, California
Saint Nicholas Island, California

f. USAF Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, California

Control Center receiving all orbital data and exercising command control of SAMOS.

CONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION

ATLAS

Assembly and Test . . . . General Dynamics/Astronautics

Systems Engineering and Technical Direction. . . Space Technology Laboratories

Guidance . . . General Electric Company, Burroughs Corporation (ground based computer)

Propulsion . . . Rocketdyne Division of NAA

AGENA

Prime Contractor . . . Lockheed

Propulsion . . . . . Bell

END